

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 03788 030646Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 /074 W
-----083356 032136Z /73

R 030520Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9128
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3788

NEW DELHI FOR DMBASSY AND DEA

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SNAR, US NP
SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH IING BIRENDRA - NARCOTICS

REF: KATHMANDU 3642

1. DURING MY CALL ON KING AUGUST 19, I REVIEWED
WITH HIM VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AGAINST
THE BACKGROUND OF SEVERAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRIORITY
CONCERNS, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, HUMAN
RIGHTS AND NARCOTICS. THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH OUR
DISCUSSION ON NARCOTICS QUESTION.

2. I RECALLED THAT SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS WAS ONE WHICH
HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH HMG FOR SOME TIME. AS
CANNABIS GREW WILD IN NEPAL AND ITS CULTIVATION WAS
DIFICULT TO CONTROL WE WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED OVER
ITS LEAKAGE INTO INTERNATIONAL MARKET. WE HAD
ACCORDINGLY WELCOMED GON INITIATIVE LAST YEAR TO ADOPT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 03788 030646Z

LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING CONTROLS AND PENALTIES AND
WE HAD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ADEQUATE ENFORCEMENT
MACHINERY WOULD FOLLOW.

2. KING INTERJECTED TO SAY THAT THIS WAS HIS
OBJECTIVE ALSO. HOWEVER, IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION
THAT SO FAR, ADOPTION OF THIS LEGISLATIN HAD UNFORTUNATELY

CONTRIBUTED MORE TO AN INCREASE IN CORRUPTION AMONG OFFICIALS THAN TO CONTROLLING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. MUCH MORE WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE IN THE WAY OF DEVELOPING BETTER TRAINED OFFICIALS AND RAISING THE GENERAL STANDARD OF ADMINISTRATION BEFORE THIS LAW COULD BE EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED AND THIS WOULD TAKE TIME.

3. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE WE HAD EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN HASISH AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THIS PROBLEM AS FAR AS I KNEW DID NOT IMPINGE DIRECTLY ON US INTERESTS BECAUSE VERY LITTLE OF THIS NARCOTIC REACHED TH US FROM NEPAL AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A FAR MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM POSSIBLY LOOMING AHEAD BECAUSE WE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS EARLIER THIS YEAR OF POPPY CULTIVATION IN WESTERN NEPAL TOGETHER WITH OTHER REPORTS THAT THE GON WAS CONSIDERING GOING INTO OPIUM PRODUCTION, OSTENSIBLY TO MEET LEGITIMATE MEDICAL NEEDS AND FOR EXPORT. THIS SUBJECT HAD COME UP IN MY INITIAL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES" HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING OPIUM FOR NEPAL AND HAD CONFIRMED THAT THE GON WAS CONSIDERING THE MATTER (KATHMANDU 3278). THE KING NODDED AND SAID THIS WAS CASE, MENTIONING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KATHMA 03788 030646Z

THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH PRIME MINISTER HAD REFERRED.

4. I REMINDED KING THAT WE HAD RECENTLY MADE A DEMARCHE BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND HERE EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND DRAWING ON STATE 132964, I REPEATED THE POINTS IN THIS MESSAGE WHICH THE THEN-CHARGE HAD EXPRESSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER (KATHMANDU 2374). I ADDED THAT NEPAL WAS BLESSED BY NOT HAVING AN OPIUM AND HEROIN PROBLEM AND THAT IF THE KING WERE CONCERNED ABOUT CORRUPTION, THE INTRODUCTION OF POPPIES AND OPIUM INTO NEPAL COULD HAVE FAR MORE SERIOUS EFFECTS, THREATENING TO CORRUPT THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY TO SAY NOTHING OF THE TEMPTATIONS THIS WOULD OFFER ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. I CONCLUDED BY REMINDING THE KING OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEM. WHILE I DID NOT WANT TO USE A PHRASE WHICH SOUNDED THREATENING, ESPECIALLY IN OUR FIRST MEETING, IN ALL CANDOR I HAD TO TELL HIM THAT IF THE GON DECIDED TO GO DOWN THIS ROAD THIS COULD HAVE A VERY SERIOUS EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. THE KING TOOK THIS IN STRIDE REMARKING THAT HE REALLY HADN'T FOCUSED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HASH AND OPIUM AND THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THE CULTIVATION OF POPPIES. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER FURTHER. THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO OTHER SUBJECTS AFTER I SAID I WOULD SEND HIM SOME LITERATURE ON OPIUM CULTIVATION.

6.COMMENT: THE FEDBACK WE ARE GETTING FROM THE PALACE IS THAT THE PALACE GUARD AND THE ROYAL FAMILY ACCEPTED WITH GOOD GRACE THE VARIOUS POINTS I RAISED WITH KING INCLUDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION BUT WERE ANNOYED AT THE THRUST OF MY REMAKRS ON THE NARCOTICS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KATHMA 03788 030646Z

ISSUE. THIS COMES CLOSE TO HOME, SINCE IN THIS BUSINESS. THE PALACE IS SAID TO BE CONSIDERING HOW TO REACT TO MY PRESENTATION. WE MAY BE IN FOR SOME UNPLEASANT BUSINESS AND SOME DEFLATION IN THE GENERAL EUPHORIA THAT CURRENTLY PREVAILS OVER THE EXCELLENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
HECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KATHMA03788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770320-0988
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770999/aaaadfps.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b748fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KATHMANDU 3642
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1392165
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUDIENCE WITH IING BIRENDRA - NARCOTICS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SNAR, US, NP, (BIRENDRA, KING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b748fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009